WEIRD VAMPIRE TALES

OCT 1979 $1.75

FANGS, FLESH AND BLOOD EXPLODE WITH TERROR FILLED SCREAMS IN

THE BATS

PLUS

THE DEVIL'S VAMPIRE

A FRENZY OF HORROR IN

WERENOLF

FEATURING:

- THE DEAD WITCH
- GLASS MORGUE

CATS OF DOOM

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WEIRD VAMPIRE TALES

OCT. 1979

VOL. 3 No. 3

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THERE'S A BLOOD-SUCKER AMONG US!

REALLY, GENTLEMEN THIS IS THE 20TH CENTURY! VAMPIRES...! HOW ABSURD CAN YOU GET? DO YOU REALIZE THE PANIC THAT WILL SPREAD IF YOU KEEP TALKING THIS WAY?
CE
"POLICE PROMISED TO HANDLE THE MATTER AS A ROUTINE MURDER..."
LUCKY FOR US THAT MISS ALLBRIGHT HAS A STEADY HEAD ON HER SHOULDERS...
"BUT THE NEXT TIME THE FULL MOON ROSE..."
"THE VAMPIRE STRUCK AGAIN..."
"THIS TIME THE VICTIM WAS MR. WALLNER, A LAWYER..."
"MR. WALLNER WAS FOUND THE NEXT MORNING, COMPLETELY DRAINED OF BLOOD WITH THE SAME TWO NEAT LITTLE PUNCTURES IN HIS THROAT..."
THERE'S NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT! SOMEBODY IN THIS TOWN IS A VAMPIRE!
"THAT NIGHT, A SEARCH PARTY WAS ORGANIZED, CARRYING TORCHES AND ARMED WITH STEEL SPIKES. THE MEN ROAMED THE FIELDS ALL AROUND THE TOWN!"

"BUT WHEN MORNING CAME, THEY TRUDGED BACK, DISCOURAGED AND EMPTY HANDED...
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW?
PATROL THE STREETS AT NIGHT AND KEEP ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN INDOORS!

"WHEN TWO MONTHS PASSED AND THE VAMPIRE HAD NOT STRUCK AGAIN, TENSE NERVES BEGAN TO SLACKEN! PEOPLE WALKED THE STREETS AGAIN, AND THE NIGHT PATROLS WERE DISCONTINUED!"

"IT WAS JUST ABOUT THEN THAT THIS NEW BOY CAME TO SCHOOL! HIS NAME WAS JETHROE TURNER! HE HAD A PALE FACE WITH REMARKABLY-BRILLIANT RED LIPS..."
CHILDREN, JETHROE IS YOUR NEW CLASSMATE, AND I WANT YOU ALL TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH HIM!

"I ASKED LITTLE JETHROE SOME QUESTIONS..."
JETHROE, I WANT YOU TO TELL US ALL ABOUT YOURSELF... FIRST... WHAT SORT OF WORK DOES YOUR DADDY DO? IS HE A CARPENTER? A LAWYER? A MILKMAN?

"JETHROE SAID "NO" AND THEN HE RAISED HIMSELF ON TIPTOES AND WHISPERED INTO MY EAR...
MY DADDY IS A VAMPIRE!

"I MUST CONFESS THAT I WAS TERRIBLY SHOCKED!"
YOU NAUGHTY BOY! YOU MUST NEVER GO AROUND SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT ABOUT YOUR DADDY!
BUT IT'S TRUE...(SOB)... IT'S REALLY TRUE!

STOP SAYING IT! I DON'T EVER WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY IT AGAIN!

"...THAT AFTERNOON, WHEN JETHROE LEFT, I WATCHED HIM THROUGH THE WINDOW..."
HE DOES... LOOK... SOMEHOW... DIFFERENT...

"WHEN EVENING CAME, I WROTE A VERY TACTFUL NOTE TO JETHROE'S FATHER, ASKING HIM TO COME SEE ME AT SCHOOL!"
THERE'LL BE TERRIBLE TROUBLE IF THE BOY GOES AROUND SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT!

"THAT NIGHT, I DREAMT THAT JETHROE AND HIS FATHER HAD CORNERED ME AT THE END OF A DEAD END STREET..."

"I SCREAMED, BUT THEY KEPT COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER..."

"AND THEN--THANK HEAVEN--I WAS AWAKE... DRENCHED IN PERSPIRATION, MY LANDLADY SHAKING MY SHOULDERS..."
MISS ALLBRIGHT, WHAT'S THE MATTER? I HEARD YOU SCREAMING... I CAME RUNNING...
N-NOTHING... JUST A VERY BAD DREAM! PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!

"I GAVE JETHROE THE NOTE FOR HIS FATHER! A WHOLE WEEK PASSED WITHOUT AN ANSWER! IT WAS A HORRID WEEK MARRED BY MANY NIGHTMARES! I TAUGHT MECHANICALLY... HARDLY KNOWING WHAT WAS GOING ON..."
CAT... C-A-T SPELLS CAT!
VERY GOOD... NOW SPELL MAN...

"I HEARD DIMLY WHAT THE OTHER TEACHERS WERE SAYING..."
SOMETHING WRONG WITH MISS ALLBRIGHT? SHE'S BEEN LOOKING SICK LATELY?
YES...
"THEN THE FULL MOON ROSE..."
"And THE VAMPIRE STRUCK AGAIN!"
"THE NEXT MORNING JETHROE BROUGHT ME A NOTE FROM HIS FATHER..."
Thank you for your interest. I am a busy man and cannot come to school. Could you possibly spend this evening at my home?

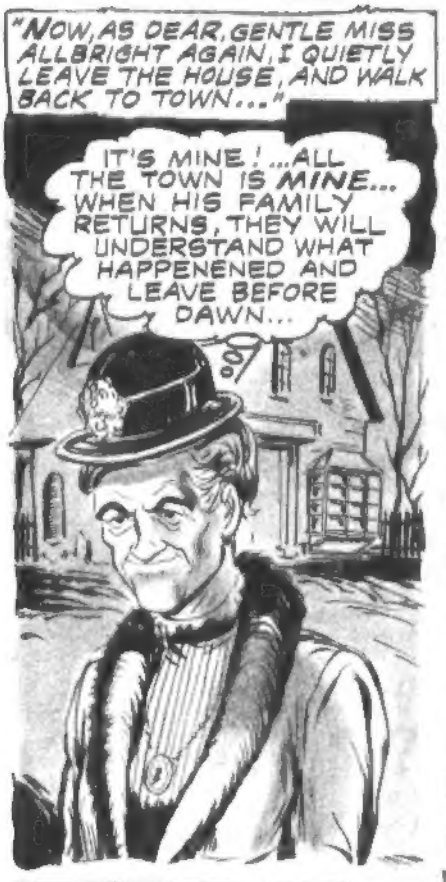
"IT IS TIME NOW... I AM WALKING SLOWLY TOWARD JETHROE'S HOUSE WHICH STANDS BY ITSELF ON A LONELY ROAD..."

"BEFORE I HAVE A CHANCE TO RING, THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN...
Y-YOU MUST BE JETHROE'S FATHER!
MISS ALLBRIGHT? HOW NICE OF YOU TO COME! PLEASE STEP INSIDE!

MY FAMILY IS AWAY. WE TWO ARE ALONE... THE PARLOR IS THIS WAY, MISS ALLBRIGHT!

"WE ARE SEATED... AND SLOWLY, I DRAW FROM MY PURSE THE LITTLE HAND MIRROR THAT WILL TELL ME THE TRUTH...
JETHROE IS... ER... A VERY REMARKABLE BOY...

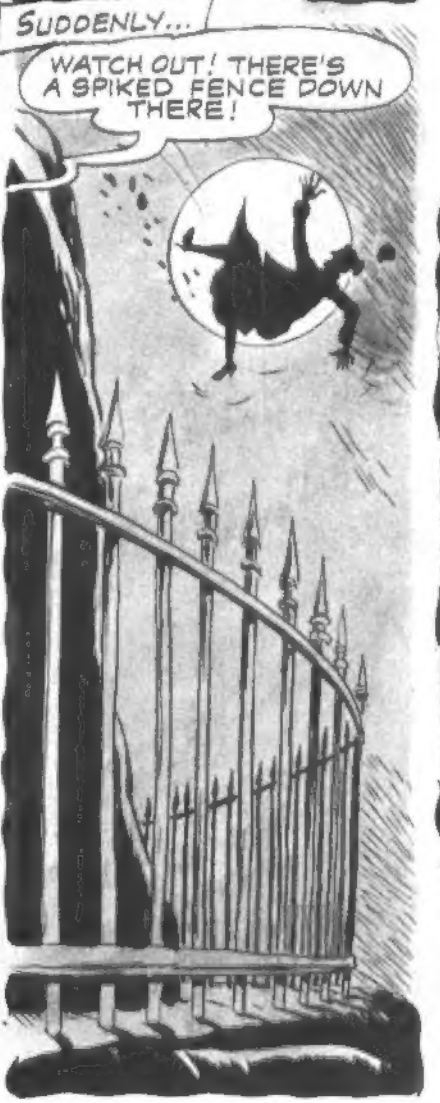
"BUT THEN..."
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE THAT, MISS ALLBRIGHT! FOR THERE WILL BE NO REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR... AND NOW YOU WILL KNOW FOR CERTAIN I AM A VAMPIRE!
"HE TRANSFORMS FASTER THAN ANY VAMPIRE I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE! MY NIGHTMARE IS COMING TO LIFE!"
"HE LUNGES AT ME..."
NO! NO! NO!
"BUT I DODGE... AND I AM READY FOR HIM! HE RECOILS IN HORROR WHEN HE SEES HOW READY I AM..."
YES--I, TOO! I AM THE VAMPIRE OF THE TOWN! IT IS MY TOWN! ALL ITS BLOOD IS MINE! I WILL BROOK NO INTERFERENCE BY A RIVAL!
"THE SHOCK OF MY REAL IDENTITY HAS DISARMED HIM..."
"...AND MY JAGGED TEETH DO THE REST..."
SLEEP WELL, JETHROE'S DADDY... SLEEP THE DEEP SLEEP OF THE BLOODLESS!


"NOW, AS DEAR, GENTLE MISS ALLBRIGHT AGAIN, I QUIETLY LEAVE THE HOUSE, AND WALK BACK TO TOWN..."
IT'S MINE! ...ALL THE TOWN IS MINE... WHEN HIS FAMILY RETURNS, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENENED AND LEAVE BEFORE DAWN...

"BUT SUDDENLY, MY NERVES SNAP UNDER THE IMPACT OF A HORRIBLE SHOCK!"

"DEMONS, FIENDS, LOATHSOME CREATURES OF THE NIGHT... THEY KEEP ON SWARMING AROUND ME!"

"SOMEHOW, I'VE BEEN FOUND OUT! SOMEHOW I'VE TRANSGRESSED A LAW OF THE HORRIBLE LIVING DEAD! THEY'VE COME TO GET ME!"
HELP! HELP!


SUDDENLY...
WATCH OUT! THERE'S A SPIKED FENCE DOWN THERE!

"THERE'S A STAKE THROUGH MY HEART... IT'S THE ONLY WAY A VAMPIRE CAN BE KILLED... DIMLY OVERHEARD. I SEE YOUNG, HORRIFIED FACES! I HEAR TREMBLING VOICES..."
W-WHY DID MISS ALLBRIGHT RUN THAT WAY? G-GOSH, I NEVER KNEW ANYONE TO BE SO SCARED BY MASKS AND COSTUMES!
SPACI CAD
"I HAVE THE STRENGTH FOR ONE LAST GRIM SMILE... WHAT A STUPID, OLD FOOL I HAVE BEEN! THE WEEK THAT I SPENT IN A DAZE, WAITING FOR AN ANSWER FROM JETHROE'S FATHER, WAS THE WEEK BEFORE HALLOWEEN!!"
THE END

THE VAMPIRE LIVES!

PARCHED FOR THE LIQUID THAT WILL SUSTAIN ITS FIENDISH LIFE FOR 25 YEARS THE VAMPIRE OF THE VILLA DI PINI APPEARS IN THE MOONLIGHT-- IN ALL ITS HORRENDING AWESOMENESS.

NO, SIGNORA! THIS VAMPIRE IS REAL! THE SERVANT IS SAID TO HAVE HIDDEN HIS BODY... AND IT WAS THIS SERVANT WHO BECAME THE FIRST VICTIM OF HIS MASTER, WHO HAD TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE!
AND NOW--ABOUT EVERY 25 YEARS--THE VAMPIRE STIRS FROM HIS HIDING PLACE AND SEEKS A FEW VICTIMS TO REPLENISH HIS STRENGTH!
YOU MEAN, THIS VAMPIRE IS CONCEALED SOMEWHERE IN THE VILLA, AND WE'LL BE TAKING IT WITH US TO AMERICA?
WE'RE TAKING THE VILLA, LUIGI! GO TO WORK AT ONCE!

A CABLEGRAM ARRIVES AT THE CLUB OF ROBERT KNOWLAND, YOUNG MILLIONAIRE...
SHIPPING AN ENTIRE ITALIAN VILLA TO AMERICA?
IT'S NOT ELINOR'S DOING, DOC! IT'S HER MOTHER! I KNOW ELINOR MARRIED ME FOR MY MONEY! BUT I LOVE HER, DOC!
...AND HER MOTHER DROVE HER HUSBAND INTO BANKRUPTCY AND DEATH, YET--
I KNOW ELINOR'S DOMINATED BY HER MOTHER-- BUT I'M TRUSTING IN ELINOR'S INNER LOVE FOR ME!

MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE SEA!
SORRY, SIGNORA! I CANNOT TAKE THE BOAT OUT, THE VAMPIRE MAY WALK TONIGHT!
WE CAN GO BOATING ON THE LAKE ANOTHER NIGHT, MOTHER!
NO! I'LL SHOW YOU MONEY IS MORE POWERFUL THAN SUPERSTITION!

T-TEN THOUSAND LIRE TO TAKE THE SIGNORA AND HER DAUGHTER BOATING? SURELY THE SIGNORA JESTS!
DOES THAT LOOK LIKE A JEST? WHO WILL TAKE IT?

WHAT DO YOU SAY NOW TO THE POWER OF MONEY?
SIGNORA, SOMEBODY WILL DIE FOR THAT TEN THOUSAND LIRE!

LATER...
THERE'S OUR VILLA!
SIGNORA, WE HOPE WHEN YOU TAKE THE VILLA TO AMERICA, THE VAMPIRE WILL GO WITH YOU!

THE BOAT DOCKED, AND--
ALFREDO, I LEFT MY SHAWL AT THE BOAT-DOCK! GO BACK AND GET IT! WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU HERE!
B-BUT, SIGNORA, IT IS ALMOST HALF A MILE THROUGH THE DARK WOODS!

AT LEAST LEND ME YOUR LANTERN... SIGNORA!
WHAT IS THERE TO BE AFRAID OF? HOOT OWLS? OFF WITH YOU FOOL!

WITH LEADEN FEET, ALFREDO CREEPS, TREMBLING AT THE SOUND OF HIS OWN HEAVY BREATHING...
FOR MANY YEARS THE VAMPIRE HAS LEFT THE PEOPLE OF OUR VILLAGE ALONE! NOW PERHAPS THIS VOYAGE TO AMERICA MAY AROUSE HIM ONCE MORE!

(GASP!) T-THE VAMPIRE!

EAAA!
THE IDIOT PROBABLY TRIPPED OVER HIS OWN SHADOW! LET'S GO BACK TO THE INN!

IT'S HORRIBLE!
PROBABLY SOME WILD ANIMAL ATTACKED HIM!

LATER...
FORGET THE KILLING, ELINOR! THINK ABOUT LIVING IN THIS BEAUTIFUL VILLA BACK HOME!
NOTHING ABOUT THIS VILLA IS BEAUTIFUL! IT'S REPULSIVE--FRIGHTENING! I'M SORRY I EVER SAW IT!

AS THE VILLA ACHIEVES VIRTUAL REINCARNATION ON THE BANKS OF AN AMERICAN RIVER...
BUT IF YOU WERE AFRAID OF THIS VAMPIRE LEGEND, WHY DID YOU BUY THE HOUSE?
MOTHER INSISTED!

ELINOR, IF YOU COULD ONLY BREAK AWAY FROM YOUR MOTHER!
HOW DARE YOU TURN MY DAUGHTER AGAINST ME? GET OUT!

SHE HAS NO RIGHT TO MAKE ROBERT LEAVE! HE PAID FOR THIS VILLA!
I'M GOING TO WALK AROUND AND DRINK IN THIS INTOXICATING BEAUTY!

AND AS MRS. LORDE WALKS AND EXULTS, THE FULL MOON GROWS BRIGHTER AND BLOODIER!

AT THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH, A CRACK APPEARS IN THE STATUE! AN EVER WIDENING OPENING...
A HAIRY HAND, WITH LONG CLAW-LIKE NAILS COME FORTH...
AND THEN THE KIND OF FACE ONE SEES ONLY IN NIGHTMARES...
BUT THIS IS NO DREAM! MRS. LORDE SHRINKS FROM THE BAT-LIKE SHAPE! HER EYES WIDEN WITH HORROR!
THE NEXT MORNING, THE LIFELESS BODY IS FOUND BY THE GARDENER...
VAMPIRE, MRS. KNOWLAND? THERE ARE NO VAMPIRES! THIS WAS DONE BY SOME MANIAC!
MAYBE THE KILLING CAN BE EXPLAINED! A MANIAC ON THE LOOSE...
THE NEXT DAY, AFTER THE FUNERAL!
I'M WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU! WHETHER THERE'S ANYTHING TO THIS VAMPIRE LEGEND OR NOT, I WANT YOU OUT OF HERE!
YOU'D LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU? PERHAPS YOU HAD SOMEONE MURDER MOTHER...
YOU THINK THAT? YOU'VE EVEN BEGUN TO THINK LIKE HER!
I WON'T GO! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME!
Y-YOU STABBED ME!
GET OUT! AND DON'T EVER COME BACK! I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU EVER AGAIN!

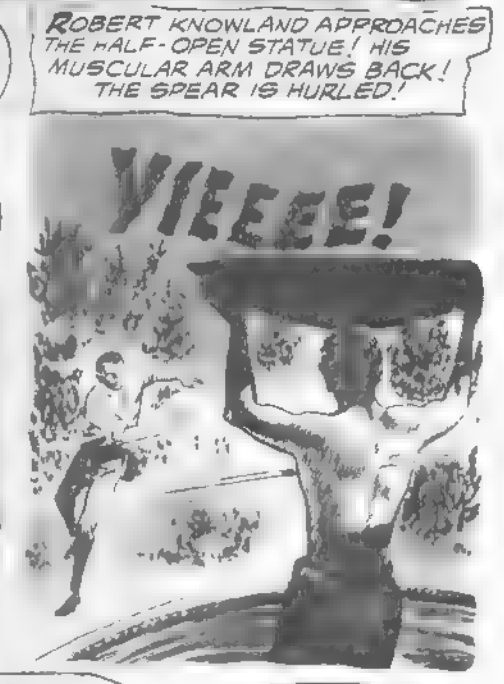
AT DOC BREWER'S OFFICE...
DO I BELIEVE IN VAMPIRES? NO! BUT I WORRY MORE ABOUT ELINOR'S BEHAVIOR!
I MUST BE AT THE VILLA DI PIN! THE NEXT NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON! I DON'T DARE LEAVE HER ALON, VAMPIRE OR NO VAMPIRE!
THE MONTH PASSES SWIFTLY! THEN, ONE NIGHT...
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG, DOC? YOU KNOW I WANTED TO BE AT THE VILLA IN TIME FOR THE FULL MOON!
COULDN'T HELP IT, BOB! MY PATIENT WAS PRETTY LOW! STOW THIS TRANSFUSION APPARATUS IN THE BACK OF YOUR CAR!
AT THE VILLA...
STRANGE! I THOUGHT I HEARD A SOUND ON THE TERRACE! THE SERVANTS WENT OFF FOR THE NIGHT!
AIEE!
STAY AWAY FROM ME! OH, H-HELP! HELP!
MOMENTS LATER, OUTSIDE...
THAT'S ODD, THAT STATUE IS OPEN! IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE HOLLOW?
LISTEN! A SCREAM! IT'S ELINOR!
EEIIII!
GOOD LORD, LOOK! IT'S A VAMPIRE!
NO, BOB! DON'T GO NEAR HIM! HE'S NOT HUMAN! NOBODY CAN FIGHT A VAMPIRE WITH MORTAL WEAPONS! TAKE THIS MIRROR! THE IMAGE OF HIMSELF IS SUPPOSED TO DRIVE HIM AWAY!

THE MIRROR WORKS ALL RIGHT HE CAN'T COME NEAR ME!

HE'S RUNNING AWAY!
ELINOR'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD! SHE HAS A CHANCE IF YOU HURRY AND GET THAT INTRAVENOUS EQUIPMENT OUT OF THE CAR! I MIGHT SAVE HER LIFE WITH A BLOOD TRANSFUSION!

MINUTES LATER, AS LIFE-GIVING BLOOD STREAMS IN A SUSTAINING FLOW FROM HUSBAND TO WIFE...
OH, ROBERT--ROBERT, DARLING... I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU! BUT SOMETHING CAME OVER ME! T WAS M-MOTHER'S BAD INFLUENCE!
YES, I KNOW!

YOU'D BETTER LIE DOWN, TOO, BOB! YOU GAVE UP AN AWFUL LOT OF BLOOD! SAY! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT SPEAR?
THEY SAY ONLY A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART CAN KILL A VAMPIRE! I'LL SOON FIND OUT!


ROBERT KNOWLAND APPROACHES THE HALF-OPEN STATUE! HIS MUSCULAR ARM DRAWS BACK! THE SPEAR IS HURLED!
YIEEEE!

NOTHING HERE BUT A HANDFUL OF DUST AND THIS BAT RING!

ROBERT! THE VAMPIRE! HE'S NO LEGEND! HE'S REAL!
HE WAS REAL, DARLING! HE'S GONE NOW--THERE'S ONLY YOU AND ME NOW--
The End

THIS IS A CRAZY STORY! OR MAYBE NOT SO CRAZY AFTER ALL, MAYBE IT'S JUST GHOULISH AND HORRIBLE AND SICKENING! BUT ONE THING I'LL SWEAR TO- IT IS TRUE! I KNOW BECAUSE IT HAPPENED TO ME! TO ME AND LIZA, THE GIRL I'M GOING TO MARRY! A SWEET KID, LIZA, AND AS PRETTY AS THEY COME! AND THE LAST PERSON IN THE WORLD YOU WOULD EXPECT TO TURN INTO A VAMPIRE! YES - I SAID VAMPIRE! A BLOOD-SUCKING FIEND OUT OF HADES, HE WAS, BUT HE DIDN'T JUST WANT HER BLOOD! HE WANTED HER SOUL, TOO! IT ALL STARTED ONE NIGHT...

THE DEVIL'S VAMPIRE

I WAS BEGINNING TO GET WORRIED WHEN I SAW LIZA COME OUT OF THE ELEVATOR...
GEE KID, I WAS ABOUT TO COME UP THERE... HEY, YOU'RE CRYING! IF THAT BIG SLOB..
N-NO DARLING! IT'S JUST THAT-- OH, IT WAS HORRIBLE!
HE THREATENED TO KILL HIMSELF, JACK! I REALLY THINK HE MEANT IT, TOO! I'M SCARED! GREG IS FUNNY ANYWAY, YOU KNOW! HE'S A BULGARIAN BY BIRTH... SOME OF THE CRAZY THINGS HE TALKS ABOUT...
FORGET IT, BABY! HE'S JUST TALKING!
I HEARD IT THEN, LIKE A BOMB WHINING DOWN..
THESE CHARACTERS WHO TALK ABOUT KILLING THEMSELVES NEVER DO!
YOU DON'T KNOW GREG THE WAY I DO! I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY!
REX HOTEL
REX HOTEL
BABY, HERE! OUT OF THE WAY AND DON'T LOOK!
THERE WAS A SOUND LIKE A TOO RIPE PUMPKIN STRIKING CONCRETE! LIZA SHUDDERED!
C'MON, BABY! I'M GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE!
GAD, WHAT A MESS! SOMEBODY CALL THE COPS!
THERE WAS NO POINT IN HANGING AROUND! I HALF CARRIED LIZA THROUGH THE CROWD THAT GATHERED LIKE A FLOCK OF VULTURES..
POOR MAN, WHY DID HE DO IT?
NOTHING WE CAN DO HERE, LIZA! WE'LL STAY OUT OF IT IF WE CAN! IF NOT WE'LL CONTACT THE POLICE LATER!
NO PARKING

THE POLICE INVESTIGATION WAS MERE ROUTINE -- BUT A WEEK LATER THE REAL TROUBLE STARTED! LIZA GOT SICK...
THERE IS NO IMPROVEMENT, MR BURCH! SHE IS WORSE! I MUST SPEAK TO YOU AT ONCE... IN PRIVATE!
SOUNDS BAD, DR. BORIN!
DR BORIN WAS A FUNNY LITTLE GUY, A REFUGEE FROM EASTERN EUROPE... BUT WHAT HE TOLD ME WASN'T FUNNY.
WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THE KID, DOC?
I--I CAN'T BE SURE, BUT I THINK IT IS SATAN'S DISEASE!
DO NOT THINK THAT I AM MAD, BUT I COME FROM THE SAME PART OF THE WORLD THAT GREG DID! AND IT IS GREG, THE DEAD MAN, THAT I THINK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GIRL'S ILLNESS! IN SHORT, SIR SATAN'S DISEASE IS A FORM OF VAMPIRISM!
I THOUGHT HE WAS NUTS! BUT LIZA WASN'T GETTING ANY BETTER, SO I WENT ALONG WITH HIM! AND I COULD ALWAYS GET ANOTHER DOCTOR...
I CAN'T EXPLAIN FULLY! I MUST GET SOME THINGS TO FIGHT THIS FIEND, SO MEET ME BACK HERE IN AN HOUR!
OKAY, DOC, IN AN HOUR! BUT VAMPIRES IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY...
BUT I NEVER MET THE LITTLE DOCTOR AGAIN! WHEN I GOT BACK I SAW A CROWD STANDING ABOUT SOMETHING IN THE STREET!
LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF ACCIDENT! COPS AND EVERYTHING!
THAT DRIVER SHOULD BE LYNCHED!
IF THEY CATCH HIM!
A HIT AND RUN DRIVER HAD KILLED HIM! WHAT A BAD BREAK! BUT I STILL HAD LIZA TO WORRY ABOUT...
I SAW THE PARCEL IN THE GUTTER THEN! NOBODY WAS PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO ME, SO...
ANYONE SEE THE CAR? CAN YOU GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF IT?
NOT ME!
MUST BE THE STUFF... MIGHT AS WELL SEE WHAT IT IS!

LIZA WAS STILL ASLEEP! I TOOK THE PARCEL INTO ANOTHER ROOM! I DIDN'T BELIEVE THE DOC'S VAMPIRE STORY, BUT WHAT COULD I LOSE..
POOR KID! LOOKS SO PALE!
IT WAS QUITE A COLLECTION! A BOOK, A BOTTLE, AND A SILVER MEDAL ON A CHAIN! BUT WHEN I STARTED TO READ THE BOOK I FELT COLD FINGERS ON MY SPINE! THE LITTLE DOCTOR HADN'T BEEN KIDDING... HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT GREG HAD BECOME A VAMPIRE.
GOOD GRIEF! THIS SAYS THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF VAMPIRES! HE'S MARKED A PASSAGE HERE!
I WENT INTO LIZA'S ROOM AND KEPT READING...
GREG MIGHT COME BACK AS AN ANIMATED CORPSE, BUT WHEN HE DOES COME HE'LL TRY TO TAKE HER INTO DEATH WITH HIM! HMM-- SURE SOUNDS FANTASTIC!
I HEARD LIZA SCREAM...
EEEEEEE! N-NO! OH, PLEASE! STAY AWAY, DON'T TOUCH ME! AHHHHHHH!
LIZA! WHAT IS IT?
AND THEN I SAW IT! A HORRIBLE WRITHING FORM THAT ROLLED THROUGH THE WINDOW LIKE EVIL SMOKE! GREG HAD COME BACK FOR LIZA...
GREG! IT IS HIM! HE WANTS LIZA!
EEEEE-EEEEE NO!
THE THING DRIFTED SLOWLY TOWARD THE BED, IGNORING ME...
EITHER IT DOESN'T SEE ME, OR IT DOESN'T CARE!
NO, GREG, GO AWAY! D-DON'T TOUCH ME... OHHHH!

SUDDENLY, HORRIBLY, LIZA STOPPED SCREAMING! SHE SMILED AND EXTENDED HER ARMS TO THE VAMPIRE! SHE WAS IN HIS POWER. .
ALL RIGHT, GREG! I UNDERSTAND NOW! I'LL GO WITH YOU!
I WAS SWEATING COLD AND THINKING FAST! I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO...
THE BOOK SAYS THEY LIKE BLOOD, EVEN THIS KIND OF VAMPIRE! OKAY, HERE'S BLOOD!
PUT THE BLOOD IN THE BOTTLE, THE BOOK SAYS! I JUST HOPE IT'S HUNGRY-- REAL HUNGRY!
IF I SAID I WASN'T SCARED, I'D BE A LIAR! BUT I STEPPED CLOSE TO THE VAMPIRE, HOLDING OUT THE BOTTLE AND THE SILVER MEDALLION. .
OKAY, YOU FOULNESS, HERES BLOOD FOR YOU! SO, YOU NOTICE ME NOW!
GREG, WHAT'S WRONG? WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?
GREG HAD SMELLED THE BLOOD! HE CAME SLAVERING TOWARD ME! THERE WAS THE ODOR OF DEATH IN THE ROOM...
H-HOPE I CAN KEEP MY NERVE! I'VE GOT TO--- FOR LIZA'S SAKE!
AT THE LAST MOMENT THE MEDALLION, SLIPPERY WITH BLOOD, FELL FROM MY SHAKING HAND...
NOW IT'S--GULP-- AFTER ME! GOT TO FIND THAT MEDALLION, BLAST IT! HE'LL HAVE ME IN A SECOND!
I FOUND THE MEDALLION AND PUSHED IT INTO HIS CORPSE FACE! HE LET OUT A ROAR AND CRINGED AWAY! IT WAS THE FIRST SOUND HE'D MADE...
OWRRRR!
GET AWAY FROM ME, FIEND!

I HAD HIM CORNERED! KEPT HIM MOVING TOWARD THE BLOOD BOTTLE! I WANTED HIM TO GET THE SCENT OF BLOOD AGAIN.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?

HE WAS HUNGRY! HE COULDN'T RESIST THE SMELL OF THE BLOOD IN THE BOTTLE! I WATCHED FASCINATED, AS THE VAMPIRE BEGAN TO DRIFT INTO THE BOTTLE.

GO ON! GET IN THERE WET YOUR CHOPS ON SOME OF MY NICE BLOOD!

WHEN HE WAS IN THE BOTTLE I SHOVED IN THE CORK AND MADE A PASS OVER IT WITH THE MEDALLION! IF THE BOOK WAS RIGHT, I HAD HIM...

HE WAS ENJOYING HIS FEAST OF BLOOD, AND I DIDN'T BEGRUDGE IT TO HIM! LIZA WAS SAFE FROM HIM NOW FOREVER, I HOPED...

LET'S SEE YOU GET OUT OF THAT, GREG!

YES, BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOU?

I GOT ANOTHER DOCTOR IN TO SEE LIZA, AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE ROSES WERE BACK IN HER CHEEKS...

NOTHING SERIOUS, HE SAID! BUT THEN HE DIDN'T KNOW EITHER! BUT I HAD A PROBLEM...

I FEEL SO MARVELOUS, DOCTOR, BUT WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME?

NOTHING SERIOUS, MY DEAR!

SHE DOESN'T KNOW! SHE NEVER WILL KNOW IF I CAN HELP IT!

HOW TO GET RID OF THE BOTTLE? I COULDN'T RISK GREG GETING OUT, OR WISH IT ON ANYBODY ELSE, SO I'VE STILL GOT IT---
ANY TAKERS??

THE END

THEY CALLED HIM THE BEST FIND SINCE DEMPSEY! HE WAS FAST AND SMART... AND HE WAS A LADIES MAN. BUT SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM THAT HEAVY DRINKING WOULDN'T DO HIM GOOD!

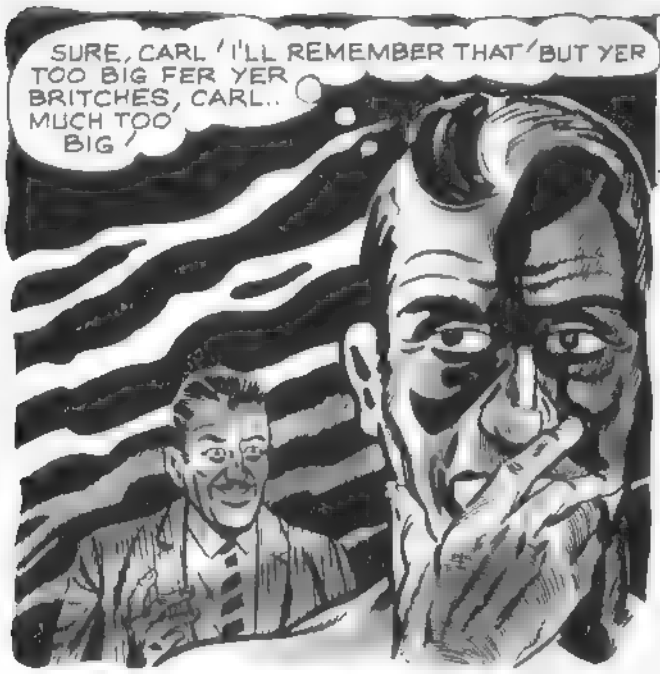
THE FIGHTING VAMPIRE

JOEY "TIGER" WILSON WOKE UP FROM HIS LULLABY... RIGHT WHERE HE ALWAYS WOKE UP...
UH-H... GOT TO MAKE BELL... I'LL FINISH HIM NEXT ROUND... I'LL...
AW... STOP IT! YOU AIN'T MAKIN' NO MORE BELL TONIGHT!
HUH? WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPEN'D?
YOU GOT CLOBBERED! HE MADE A PATSY OUTTA YOU! PUT ON YER CLOTHES AN' LET'S GO!
JOEY WASN'T A GENIUS, BUT HE WAS BIG... BUILT LIKE A TRUCK... AND HE LIKED DAMES...
SHE WAS GONNA MEET ME HERE, CARL! SHE TOLD ME!
YEAH... SHE TOLD YA! WHAT'TA LAUGH!
YOU SAW HER, LOUIE! SHE WAS CHEERIN' FOR ME! TELL ME YOU SAW HER! WHERE IS SHE?
YOU MEAN THAT BLOND SITTIN' NEAR THE RING? YEAH... I SAW HER... ON HER WAY OUT... SHE GAVE ME A MESSAGE FER YOU! SHE SAID... "DROP DEAD!"
HA...HA... IMAGINE A BIG BUM LIKE YOU THINKIN' A DAME LIKE HER IS GONNA GIVE YA A TUMBLE! HA, HA!
SHE TOL' ME SHE'D WAIT! SHE SAID...
SHE LIED TO ME! SHE TOLD ME...
LET'S GO! THIS PLACE STINKS! C'MON... LET'S FERGET ABOUT HER! I SAID C'MON!

DAMES TOLD JOEY A LOT OF THINGS... AND JOEY KEPT GETTING THE GATE! ONE HOUR LATER IN HIS HOTEL ROOM!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME, CARL? I KNOW I CAN COP THE CHAMPIONSHIP... I KNOW IT!
I'M GLAD ONE OF US KNOWS IT, 'CAUSE NO ONE ELSE DOES!
WHAT'S THAT YA GOT IN YER HAND, CARL?
JUST DRINK IT! YA WANNA BE FAST ON YER FEET, RIGHT!
WHAT IS IT? WILL IT HURT ME?
SWALLOW IT! IT'S GONNA MAKE YA OVER!
OKAY... IF YA SAY SO... IT'S KINDA BITTER! ÷GULP÷
THAT'S O.K., JOEY! ALL HEALTH JUICES TASTE BITTER!
SO JOEY SWALLOWED HIS "HEALTH JUICE"!
HEY.. I... I FEEL FUNNY! VERY FUNNY!
IT'S GONNA CLEAR UP YER HEAD! YOU'LL SEE!
JOEY SAW! THAT NEXT MORNING ON THE ROAD
I NEVER USTA LIKE ROADWORK, CARL! GEE, I FEEL GREAT!
I TOLD YA, JOEY! KEEP IT UP! YOU ARE GOING TO BE OKAY!

SOON JOEY WAS FEELING IN THE PINK OF CONDITION HE WAS READY TO TAKE ON ANYONE
NOW REMEMBER, WHEN HE SHOOTS OUT HIS RIGHT, CROUCH AND HAND HIM AN UPPERCUT!
YEAH... BUT I WISH THESE LIGHTS WEREN'T SO BRIGHT!
THE BELL RANG, THE CROWD ROARED, THE TWO FIGHTERS SHUFFLED TOWARD EACH OTHER, BUT JOEY'S EARS HURT FROM THE NOISE..
CAN'T STAND THAT NOISE! THOSE LIGHTS ARE KILLIN' ME! I'M NOT STAYIN' HERE!
I'LL TAKE CARE O' HIM! THOSE LIGHTS... OWWW! MY EYES!
THE CROWD WENT WILD, BUT JOEY WASN'T FEELING GOOD... IN FACT, HE FELT ROTTEN...
YA SEE? I TOLD YA, YA WON!
GET ME OUTTA HERE, CARL! MY EYES HURT SOMETHIN' TERRIBLE! AND DON'T SHOUT!
THAT'S HOW IT ALL BEGAN.. CARL MAKING JOEY DRINK HIS "HEALTH JUICE" AND JOEY GETTING MORE AND MORE NERVOUS
FINISH IT ALL! YOU'RE DOING FINE....
AND TIGER WINSTON STARTED TO CLIMB! HIS REFLEXES WERE QUICKER, HIS LEGS FASTER, HIS MUSCLES STRONGER, HIS MIND SHARPER!

JOEY'S HAIR GREW MORE ABUNDANTLY! HIS FEATURES MORE REGULAR... HIS SPEECH CLEARER... HIS PERSONALITY MAGNETIC, AND HIS FINANCES WERE BOOMING!
DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME... I GOT THINGS TO DO!
IF HE LIKED HIS "HEALTH JUICE" BEFORE... NOW HE LOVED IT!
C'MON, HURRY! MY EYES AIN'T BEEN TOO GOOD TODAY!
HOLD YER HORSES YOU'LL GET IT!
AND JOEY CLIMBED AND CLIMBED.
HE LOOKS GOOD, CARL, REAL GOOD!
SOON JOEY WAS ON TOP! THAT'S WHEN CARL CLAMPED DOWN!
YOU HEARD ME, I WANT NINETY PERCENT OF THE TAKE, OR NO MORE "HEALTH JUICE!"
YOU CRAZY? I'M THE FIGHTER! YOU'RE THE MANAGER!
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT LOOK AT YOU, JOEY! YOU'RE A DIFFERENT GUY. YOU WANNA LOSE YOUR LOOKS, LOSE THE DAMES, LOSE YOUR FIGHTS? NO MORE "HEALTH JUICE"!
I'LL RAM YER TEETH DOWN YER THROAT! I'LL MAKE YA WISH YA HADN'T TRIED ANYTHIN'!
I WOULDN'T TRY IT, JOEY! WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO YOUR DAILY DRINK? WHERE'D YA GET IT, JOEY?
Y-YEAH... GUESS YA GOT ME, CARL!
YOU'RE USIN' YER NOGGIN', BOY! FROM NOW ON I GET THE DOUGH! JUST REMEMBER THAT!


SURE, CARL! I'LL REMEMBER THAT! BUT YER TOO BIG FER YER BRITCHES, CARL.. MUCH TOO BIG!

SO JOEY BIDED HIS TIME, HIS NEWLY SHARPENED WITS WORKING ON A SCHEME THEN ONE NIGHT WHEN CARL WENT OUT, JOEY FOLLOWED!
HE'S GOING INSIDE THAT CRAZY HOUSE! NOBODY AROUND, BUT BATS!

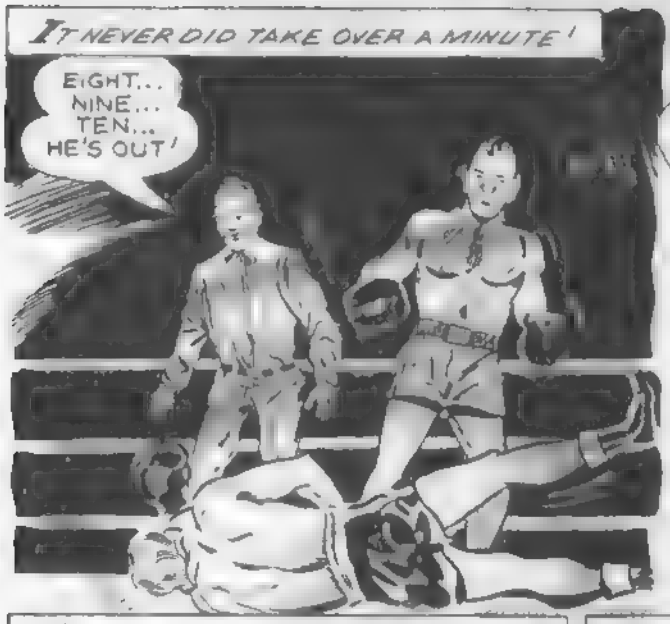
BATS! SO THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DRINKING, BATS BLOOD! HE'S DRAININ' 'EM OF THEIR BLOOD!

JOEY CREPT CLOSER... AND CLOSER AND CLOSER...
OH GODS OF DARKNESS, LET THIS POTION BE CREATED FOR..

GOODBYE, CARL!
AAARGHHH!

AND WHEN CARL FELL, JOEY DRANK!
HE WAS SPOUTING MUMBO-JUMBO FROM THAT BOOK! NOW IT'S MINE! I'LL BURY CARL WHERE THEY'LL NEVER FIND HIM AND DRINK AS MUCH AS I WANT!

JOEY CARRIED ON ALONE! HIS FINANCES GREW... AND HIS ADMIRERS GREW!
I'LL MEET YA LATER, BABY! WAIT FOR ME OUTSIDE MY DRESSIN' ROOM! IT WON'T TAKE MORE 'N A MINUTE!



JOEY WINSTON WAS SLEEPING ALL RIGHT! HE'D BE SLEEPING DURING THE DAY-TIME FOREVER! BECAUSE HE HAD MADE THE MISTAKE OF DRINKING TOO MUCH, HE HAD FINALLY TURNED INTO A **BAT!**

"THE NIGHT DESCENDS... AND ALL THE CREATURES OF EARTH CURL UP FOR SLEEP, BUT ALIVE AND LURKING, IS ONE THAT HOWLS WITH EVIL GLEE... A CREATURE SHUNNED BY MAN AND BEAST, THAT KILLS BY FANG AND CLAW... A HORROR THAT WAITS FOR A...

WEREWOLF

SO DEVASTATING HAD BEEN HIS FRIEND'S CRITICISM THAT ALEX NOME CONSIDERED THE CHEMICAL THEORY... LATER, IN HIS OWN ROOM...
OKAY... IF THEY WANT PROOF I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL DUPLICATE GAROU'S ENTIRE EXPERIMENT!

...BUT I'LL NEED "WOLF BANE" CRYSTALS AND GAROU'S NOTES SAY THAT HE WAS TO BE BURIED WITH THE CRYSTALS WHEN HE DIED! MY ONLY SOURCE THEN... IS GAROU'S GRAVE!

LUPE GAROU, THE MAN WHO HAD PERPETRATED THE HOAX OF THE CENTURY, LAY ENTOMBED IN A WEED-CHOKED CEMETERY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN... TWO NIGHTS LATER...
I MUST'VE BEEN CRAZY TO COME HERE! IF THE POLICE CATCH ME, I'M SUNK!

MAYBE LARRY AND RUSSEL ARE RIGHT! ME AND MY INSANE THEORIES! WHO EVER HEARD OF SOMEONE WANTING TO BE BURIED WITH WOLF BANE? WELL SOON FIND OUT...

GREAT SCOTT!! H-HE WAS RIGHT!! LOOK AT HIS FACE!

IT'S TRUE THEN LUPE GAROU DELIBERATELY COMMITTED SUICIDE BY INHALING THE CHOKING VAPORS OF WOLF BANE. THE TOWNSPEOPLE MUST HAVE BURIED HIM WITH THE REST OF THE CRYSTALS AS HE DIRECTED, ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO!! INCREDIBLE!

LATER...
THINK OF IT, DARLING... THE MINUTE I ANNOUNCE MY DISCOVERY, SCIENCE WILL STRIDE AHEAD!
OH, PLEASE ALEX! STOP TALKING IN MELODRAMATIC CLICHES!

COME NOW! ADMIT YOU'RE JOKING! WEREWOLVES, CHEMICAL REACTIONS! HA, HA! I'D RATHER YOU TOLD ME YOU LOVED ME!
YOU KNOW I DO, ALICE... BUT I'M DEADLY EARNEST ABOUT THIS AND I'LL PROVE IT!

MIDNIGHT... AND THE FULL OF THE MOON OVER THE LAND... LARGE... OMINOUS... THE PORTENT OF DEATH...
I'VE MELTED ALL THE CRYSTALS INTO THE FLUID AND NOW...ACCORDING TO GAROU'S FORMULA, I MUST DRINK IT AT MIDNIGHT AT FULL MOON!

THE MOONLIGHT PROBABLY HAS SOME SUBTLE EFFECT ON THE REACTION THAT I CAN'T EXPLAIN AS YET... BUT NOW... HERE GOES!!

ARRGH! MY THROAT...ON FIRE! FEEL STRANGE... DIZZY... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME...

IT WORKED! I HAVE A DESIRE TO KILL-- KILL! HA,HA!

LATER...ON THE STREET...
GETTING A BIT CHILLY LATELY! THINK I'LL WEAR MY WINTER COAT TOMORROW!

AAGGH! LET GO:. W-WHAT DO YOU WANT? AGGHH--!
...KILL KILL KILL!

YAA-A-AHHH!

And THE BEAST OF HORROR STRUCK AGAIN... AGAIN... AND AGAIN AND...

AND WHEN DAWN CAME...
OHHH-H.. WHERE AM I? W-WHAT HAVE I DONE? I--I KILLED! HEAVEN HELP ME!

But DAWN ALSO BROUGHT HORRIBLE NEWS AND FEAR TO ALEX NOME...

EXTRA! EXTRA! NIGHT-FIEND STRIKES! FIVE DIE HORRIBLY!

I-I'M GOING TO GIVE MYSELF UP! I'LL TELL RUSSEL AND LARRY EVERYTHING!

ALEX! I'VE TRIED TO REACH YOU ALL MORNING! THAT BUSINESS ABOUT THE WEREWOLF! FANTASTIC, BUT WE HAVE TO KNOW! YOU... YOU MUST HAVE BEEN JOKING...

OF COURSE I WAS! A MANIAC IS...IS LOOSE... AND IT KILLS LIKE A BEAST! THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION!

ALEX DIDN'T KNOW WHAT MADE HIM LIE BECAUSE NOW HE WAS TWO PEOPLE... AN EVIL MONSTER ENCASED IN THE BODY OF A YOUNG MAN! LATER..

I CAN'T GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN!! WHAT A FOOL I WAS: IT'S MIDNIGHT ONCE MORE... I..I'M GOING TO CALL THE POLICE!!

BUT I FEEL SO STRANGE... LIKE BEFORE...I--I'M TURNING...TURNING--

GROW-WRR-R! HA-HA! THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE! I'M STRONG AND EAGER... AND THE MOON CALLS! HA-HA...

And TO THE ONE PERSON SO DEAR, THE BEAST STEALTHILY STALKED... TO DESTROY HIS LAST BARRIER TO NORMALCY...

I SHALL RIP OPEN HER DELICIOUS THROAT TONIGHT... HA, HA!

CLOSER I COME TO HER WARM BLOOD! SEE HOW FRIGHTENED SHE IS! NOW...NOW...

EEEEE

ALICE!! AND... AND... GOOD LORD! ALEX!

ALEX LETS GO OF THE GIRL AND ATTACKS HIS FRIEND...
HELP. HELP! CAN'T F GHT H M... MUCH... LONGER...!!

SUDDENLY THE POLICE ARRIVE BUT THE MENACE TURNS AND RUNS...
HEY, YOU! STOP!!
N-NO!! DON'T SHOOT HIM! HE'S SICK!!

LATER...
T'S ALMOST MORNING... THEY'LL FIND ME SOON! I CAN'T LET THEM TAKE ME! I-I WON'T BE ABLE TO DIE! I HAVEN'T GONE BACK TO MY HUMAN FORM! THE CHEMICAL REACTION MUST HAVE BEEN PERMANENT!

IF THEY TRY TO EXECUTE ME, I'LL LIVE TO KILL AGAIN! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF THIS! GAROU MENTIONED HYPNOSIS OF ONE'S VICTIMS.. FORGIVE ME MY DARLING FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DO...

MEANWHILE, BACK IN ALEX'S ROOM...
TRY TO CARRY OUT HIS EXPERIMENT TO THE LETTER, LARRY! WE MUST HAVE AN ANTIDOTE QUICKLY!
BETTER STILL... I'M GOING TO DRINK THE SAME CONCOCTION ALEX MADE! HERE GOES!

ONE HOUR LATER...
IT'S AS WE FEARED! THIS SOLUTION HAS ABSOLUTELY NO EFFECT!
YES!! ALL THIS IS NOTHING BUT WASTED EFFORT! POOR ALEX!

ALEX IS ON MOON HILL! HE HAS ALICE UP THERE! THE POLICE SAW HER WALKING UP THERE ALONE! THAT'S HOW THEY FOUND HIM! THEY'RE GOING TO CLOSE IN!
LET'S GO! COME ON, LARRY, I KNOW A SHORT CUT!

SECONDS OF A LIFE SPEEDING BY... SECONDS STRETCHED INTO ETERNITY... AND THEN...
ALICE...!! NO!! NO!!

YIEEEE!!

POLICE, MORBID PEOPLE... REPORTERS... A CRYING GIRL WAKING UP FROM HER TRANCE... BUT MORE STARTLING... THE FACE OF THE BEAST...
WHY... HE'S NORMAL... NORMAL IN EVERY WAY!
YES, RUSSEL... IN EVER WAY...

...EXCEPT IN HIS MIND! INSANITY MADE HIM THINK HE WAS A WEREWOLF! BUT REASON RECONQUERED FOR A WHILE MAKING HIM WANT TO KILL HIMSELF! WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO HAVE HIS SWEETHEART DO IT? YES, INSANITY WAS THE HORRIBLE BEAST... NOT HIS EXPERIMENTS!
BUT HOW DID ALICE KNOW HE WAS HERE? HOW DID SHE KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM? EXPLAIN THAT IF YOU CAN! EXPLAIN IT!!
THE END

CATS OF DOOM

WHY CAN'T WE GET OFF THE TRAIN HERE?
THE EVIL LYNX MAN COULD MAKE YOU HIS VICTIM! TONIGHT'S HIS LAST CHANCE TO CAPTURE A SACRIFICE FOR THE CAT GODS!
I MUST GO, SENORITA, TO WARN THE OTHER PASSENGERS!
WHAT KIND OF SUPERSTITIOUS HUMBUG WAS HE PRATTLING ABOUT? THE TRAIN'S STOPPED! I'VE GOT TO TAKE A PEEK AND OOOH! A CAT!
WHY THAT NERVY ANIMAL GRABBED MY PURSE! COME BACK HERE WITH THAT!

WHERE DID THAT CAT GO? I MUST GET THAT PURSE! IT HAS ALL MY MONEY AND MY VISA!
THIS PLACE IS SO EMPTY AND LONELY! OH!
ALLOW ME, SENORITA! I WITNESSED THE THIEVERY AND SNATCHED THE PRIZE FROM THE CULPRIT AS HE RA PAST!

AS RUTH EXPRESSED HER THANKS, SHE DID NOT NOTICE THAT THE TRAIN HAD BEGUN TO LEAVE, UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE!
OH, I'VE MISSED IT! NOW I'M STRANDED HERE!
PERHAPS TRAPPED WOULD BE A BETTER WORD, SENORITA!

AND SO, AFTER A COMFORTABLE NIGHT AT MY ER... INN, YOU CAN CATCH THE MORNING TRAIN!
I SEEM TO HAVE NO CHOICE! WHY IS NO ONE ABOUT, AND THOSE HOUSES ALL BOARDED UP? IS IT THAT LYNX MAN STORY?
EEK! THAT HORRIBLE SHADOW SHOWS A MAN HANGING FROM THE GALLOWS!
I- UH- SEE NO-THING! IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION! LET US HURRY!
WHAT IS THAT SUPERSTITIOUS LEGEND ALL ABOUT?
THERE WAS A MAN NAMED VELOZ, WHOSE PET MOUNTAIN LYNX GREW VICIOUS AND KILLED A CHILD! ANGRY VILLAGERS SENTENCED IT TO BE KILLED, BUT VELOZ SET IT FREE AND THE MOB TURNED ON VELOZ!
I- I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! THE GALLOWS IS EMPTY! YET I'D SWEAR THAT SHADOW SHOWED A CORPSE!
STRANGE! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL YOU THAT THEY HANGED THIS MAN VELOZ!
RUTH WALKED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGE WITH THE MAN WHO HAD BEFRIENDED HER AS HE RELATED THE TERRIFYING LYNX-MAN LEGEND...
VELOZ'S CORPSE HAS DISAPPEARED SINCE THE HANGING LAST NIGHT!
A BAD SIGN! IT MEANS HE'S BEEN ADOPTED BY THE CAT GODS AND HAS BEEN GIVEN NINE LIVES, HEAVEN HAVE MERCY ON OUR VILLAGE NOW!

ONE YEAR LATER A VILLAGER WAS MISSED. THEY LATER LEARNED HIS FATE FROM A HORROR STRICKEN SHEPHERD WHO HAD WITNESSED IT!
AIEEE! A MAN BEING SACRIFICED TO THE CAT GODS!
HOW HORRIBLE! CERTAINLY THERE CAN BE NO BASIS IN FACT FOR SUCH A MACABRE TALE?
WHO KNOWS! ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, ONCE A YEAR, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS HANGING THE LYNX-MAN MUST CAPTURE ANOTHER SACRIFICIAL VICTIM OR LOSE ONE OF HIS NINE LIVES!
I LEFT MY CART HERE JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN!
A CART DRAWN BY... WHY, THEY'RE MOUNTAIN LYNX! ARE... ARE THEY SAFE?
THAT'S WHAT THE TRAIN CONDUCTOR MEANT! IF HE FAILS TO GET A VICTIM TONIGHT, HE LOSES THE LAST OF HIS NINE LIVES!
AS SAFE AS I AM, SENORITA! BUT LISTEN TO THE REST OF THE LEGEND! FOR EIGHT YEARS NOW THE LYNX-MAN HAS HAD NO VICTIMS! AFTER THAT FIRST YEAR THE VILLAGERS LOCKED THEMSELVES IN!
YES! YOU SEE HOW DESPERATE HE'D BE TONIGHT! WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME SO STRANGELY, SENORITA? DO NOT FEAR! OUR DESTINATION IS AROUND THE NEXT TURN!

A FEW MINUTES LATER IN A WILD MOUNTAIN CANYON
IS IS THIS THE INN .THESE RUINS ? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, SENOR!
THE NAME IS VELOZ, GOLDEN-HAIRED ONE! AND THIS IS MY HOME! COME, LET ME SHOW YOU THE TEMPLE OF THE CAT GODS!
VELOZ? YOU ARE VELOZ, THE LYNX-MAN!
YES! IT WAS I IN CAT FORM WHO LURED YOU FROM THE TRAIN BY STEALING YOUR PURSE!
I'LL TRY TO FIGHT MY WAY THROUGH! MAYBE THE NAILFILE IN MY PURSE WILL HELP!
THE NAIL FILE SUNK RIGHT INTO ITS THROAT! BUT IT WASN'T HURT-- IT DIDN'T EVEN BLEED!
THEN THE LEGEND IS TRUE, AND I AM TO BECOME YOUR VICTIM!
MY PEOPLE WILL NOT LET YOU ESCAPE! THE CAT GODS MUST BE APPEASED TONIGHT!
GET AWAY FROM ME! I--I'LL KILL YOU ANYHOW!
I'M AFRAID NOT-- AT LEAST NOT BY ORDINARY MEANS! COME! I MUST TAKE YOU TO THE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR!
RUTH WAS THEN BOUND HELPLESSLY!
WHY MUST ONE SO BEAUTIFUL BE SACRIFICED? BUT THE CAT GODS MUST BE APPEASED TONIGHT, OR THE CAT PEOPLE ARE DOOMED!

THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE MUST BE BRIGHT AND HOT TONIGHT, CELEBRATING OUR FIRST VICTIM IN EIGHT YEARS!
OOOOH! PLEASE SPARE ME!
SOMEHOW, I HAVE NO ZEST FOR THESE RITES TONIGHT! SHE IS SO YOUNG, SO LOVELY! IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMEONE ELSE BEING SACRIFICED!...PERHAPS THERE CAN BE!
MOST OF YOU HAVE MATES! I, THE LYNX-MAN WILL HAVE THIS ONE, AND GET ANOTHER TO BE SACRIFICED IN HER PLACE!
STOP THE CEREMONY AND LISTEN, MY PEOPLE! I HAVE DECIDED ON A CHANGE!
I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE VILLAGE! YOU'LL LURE A NEW VICTIM! THEY'RE FAMILIAR WITH MY CAT-FORMS, BUT YOU WON'T BE SUSPECTED UPON MARRIAGE TO ME, YOU'LL BECOME ONE OF US!
YOU HEARD! I'VE BEEN LONESOME ALL THESE YEARS AND TONIGHT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU! THERE IS STILL A COUPLE OF HOURS UNTIL MIDNIGHT! AGREE TO MY PLAN AND YOU'LL BE SPARED!
GOOD!
I-I DON'T KNOW! THE HEAT--- BEGINNING TO SEAR ME! I--OOOHH! YES, YES! I'LL AGREE TO ANYTHING IF YOU'LL ONLY FREE ME!
WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

HURRY! THE CATS SEEM AGAINST YOUR PLAN!
BACK, YOU FOOLISH CREATURES! HOW DARE YOU QUESTION MY DECISION? I'M HALF MAN AND WISER THAN YOU! I'VE SWORN WE'LL GET ANOTHER VICTIM! BACK!
GRRRR

I'M FREE! NOW IF ONLY I CAN GET OUT OF THIS HORRIBLE UNHOLY PLACE WHILE THEY'RE FIGHTING!
GRRRRRARGGG
WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO HIM NOW
STOP! HAVE YOU ALL GONE MAD? WAIT! DON'T ATTACK! WE'LL SACRIFICE THE GIRL! ARGHH!

LOOKING BACK FOR ONE LAST SPINE CHILLING MOMENT, RUTH SAW THAT VELOZ, THE LYNX MAN HAD BEEN SACRIFICED IN HER PLACE!

THERE'S VELOZ'S CART! BUT THE LYNX THAT ONCE DREW IT ARE NOW NOTHING BUT BONES!
A FEW HOURS LATER AS DAWN BROKE...
THIS IS THE MORNING OF GREAT REJOICING, SENORITA! COME TO THE SQUARE AND SEE WHY!
THE END OF THE LYNX-MAN VELOZ! BACK WHERE HE BELONGS, WHERE HIS NATURAL LIFE ENDED NINE YEARS AGO!
IT IS HE, ALL RIGHT! BUT HOW... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
I'M LOST! I'LL NEVER FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE VILLAGE! OOOH! CAT SHADOWS ACROSS THE MOON!
BACK IN THE VILLAGE AT LAST! BUT WHAT IS GOING ON?
LATER ON THE MORNING TRAIN...
THERE ARE MANY THINGS NONE OF US UNDERSTAND, HERE IN THE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY, SENORITA! IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO LEAVE THIS PLACE AND NEVER RETURN!
IT'S ALL SO STRANGE! WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD THEM OF THIS WEIRD ADVENTURE? THANK GOODNESS I'M LEAVING THIS GHASTLY TOWN AT LAST!
THE END

HOW BEAUTIFUL THESE FIGURINES ARE! SO LIFE-LIKE! I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE LIKE THEM!

JA! ARE THEY NOT MOST EXQUISITE? IT'S OUR FIRST SHIPMENT! SUCH CRAFTSMANSHIP! NEIN?

IF YOU FOUND OUT WHAT WENT ON AT THE NEW REDUCING SALON IN OBERLIN PLATZ, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU TOO WOULD AVOID...

THE GLASS MORGUE

FRAU FREIDA HERTZEL ALIGHTED FROM THE TRAIN AT DRESDEN AND FOUND HER HUSBAND WAITING FOR HER ON THE STATION PLATFORM..

FRIEDA, MY DEAR! DID YOU HAVE A NICE TRIP? HOW IS THE FAMILY IN MUNICH?

KURT! WHAT A SURPRISE! I DID NOT EXPECT YOU TO MEET ME!

YOU MUST HAVE CLOSED THE STORE EARLY TO COME TO THE STATION! YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO THAT FOR ME, KURT!

ACH.. FREIDA.. YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THIS CITY! EVER SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN IN MUNICH VISITING...

.NO LESS THAN TWENTY WOMEN HAVE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE! WHEN WE GET HOME YOU WILL SEE THEIR PICTURES IN THE NEWSPAPERS!

ACH! I TELL YOU... NO WOMAN IS SAFE ALONE ON THE STREETS! HERE ARE THE NEWSPAPERS!

OH,, MEIN GOTT!
WHAT IS IT, FREDA? YOU KNOW SOME OF THEM?

NO, BUT THESE PICTURES REMIND ME OF SOME MAGNIFICENT DRESDEN CHINA FIGURINES I SAW IN A SHOP WHEN I WAS IN MUNICH.

THEY ARE SO REALISTIC! SUCH WORKMANSHIP!
JA, MEIN FRAU! THE VERY BEST DRESDEN, TOO! OUR FIRST SHIPMENT FROM THE PERSON WHO MAKES THEM!

"I WANTED TO BUY A PAIR... A MAN LIKE YOU, AND A LADY JUST LIKE ME!"
I'M SORRY, MEIN FRAU! I DON'T THINK WE RECIEVED ANY! ERIC... WERE THERE ANY THIN ONES!
NO, PERHAPS WE COULD PLACE A SPECIAL ORDER FOR THE LADY!
THANK YOU... I LIVE IN DRESDEN! I WILL LOOK FOR WHAT I WANT WHEN I RETURN HOME!

KURT... I NEVER HAVE SEEN SUCH FIGURINES EVEN HERE IN DRESDEN! THEY LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE THESE PICTURES!
NONSENSE, FREIDA! IT'S YOUR IMAGINATION!

THE NEXT DAY, FRAU HERTZEL WAS VISITED BY HER GOOD FRIEND FRAU BOEHMLER...
HILDA... YOU'VE PUT ON SO MUCH WEIGHT SINCE I LAST SAW YOU!
DO NOT BLAME ME FRIEDA! YOU HAVE HEARD WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON HERE! IT'S AWFUL!
THREE OF THOSE WOMEN I KNEW! THEY WENT TO HERR BOSZ... JUST LIKE I DO! NOW THEY'RE GONE! I'M SO NERVOUS, I CAN'T STOP EATING!
LOOK AT ME!... HOW FAT I AM! I'M ON MY WAY TO HERR BOSZ NOW! COME WITH ME FRIEDA! I'M AFRAID TO GO OUT ALONE!
AH, FRAU BOEHMLER! HOW NICE TO SEE YOU... AND WHO IS YOUR CHARMING FRIEND?
HERR BOSS! THIS IS MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, FRAU HERTZEL!
A PLEASURE!... EVEN THOUGH YOU WILL NEVER NEED MY SERVICES! MY BUSINESS IS SO SLOW NOW WITH WOMEN AFRAID TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES!
WELL... COME FRAU BOEHMLER! FRAU HERTZEL CAN WAIT FOR YOU HERE!
BUT IT WAS LONGER THAN FRAU HERTZEL FIGURED! SEATED IN A SOFT CHAIR, SHE BECAME DROWSY! HER HEAD NODDED... HER EYES CLOSED... AND SHE WAS ASLEEP...
SUDDENLY SHE WAS AWAKENED BY A TERRIFYING SCREAM!
HILDA!! WHAT'S HAPPENING!! HILDA!!
AAIIIIYYEEAHH!

HILDA! WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT'S HAPPENING? HILDA! ANSWER ME!!

FRAU HERTZEL, WHY ARE YOU SCREAMING? WHAT'S WRONG?
HERR BOSZ! WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM? MY FRIEND, WHERE IS SHE?

SCREAM? I HEARD NO SCREAM, FRAU HERTZEL!.. AS FOR YOUR FRIEND... FRAU BOEHMLER, WHY SHE LEFT ALMOST AN HOUR AGO!

BUT I TELL YOU I HEARD IT! IT WAS FRAU BOEHMLER! I KNOW IT WAS!
ACH! YOU ARE MISTAKEN, FRAU HERTZET! COME AND LOOK FOR YOURSELF! YOUR FRIEND COULD NOT FIND YOU AND LEFT! THEN I SAW YOU ASLEEP IN THE CHAIR! I DID NOT WISH TO DISTURB YOU! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING!

THEY LOOKED, BUT FOUND NOTHING! FRAU HERTZEL LEFT FOR HOME ..
THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE .. TOMORROW I MUST GO TO HILDA'S HOUSE TO SEE IF SHE IS ALL RIGHT!

BUT TOMORROW NEVER CAME! THAT EVENING SOMEBODY POUNDED THE KNOCKER ON FRAU HERTZEL'S DOOR...
MY WIFE!.. WHERE IS SHE? SHE IS MISSING! DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS? I CAN'T FIND HER!
HERR BOEHMLER! SHE WAS WITH ME TODAY AT HERR BOSZ'S! I FELL ASLEEP WAITING FOR HER!

I WAS AWAKENED BY A SCREAM! I THOUGHT IT WAS HILDA! HERR BOSZ SAID I WAS ONLY DREAMING... THAT HILDA LEFT! HE SHOWED ME AROUND... NOBODY WAS THERE!
SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO MY WIFE! I'M GOING TO THE POLICE!

THOSE MISSING WOMEN... HILDA KNEW THREE OF THE M.. AND THEY ALL WENT TO HERR BOSZ REDUCING SALON..

. I MUST GO BACK TO HERR BOSZ ESTABLISHMENT... HE HAS DONE SOMETHING TO THOSE WOMEN... BUT I CAN'T LET KURT KNOW WHERE I'M GOING!
FRIEDA, WHO WAS AT THE DOOR?

FRIEDA... WHERE ARE YOU GOING? IT IS NOT SAFE OUT ALONE!
IT WAS THE BAKERY BOY.. THEY COULDN'T DELIVER MY ORDER! I MUST GO TO THE OTHER STORE! I WON'T BE LONG!

IT IS VERY STRANGE... TERRIBLE PERHAPS! THOSE WOMEN... ALL FAT... AND THOSE FIGURINES...

...AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER, FRAU HERTZEL ARRIVES AT HERR BOSZ' ESTABLISHMENT..

FRAU HERTZEL PROWLED AROUND SILENTLY INSIDE! FROM ROOM TO ROOM SHE WENT! ALL WERE IN ORDER... EXCEPT...
THIS ONE... LOCKED! HE MADE ME PASS IT BY TODAY... THERE'S A QUEER ODOR... SOMEONE IS INSIDE...

THE DOOR SUDDENLY FLEW OPEN! FRAU HERTZEL WAS PETRIFIED, PINNED IN A STREAM OF LIGHT...
ACH! SO, FRAU HERTZEL! HA, HA... AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MY CHARMING LADY?

MY FRIEND... FRAU BOEHMLER... SHE HAS DISAPPEARED... YOU DIDN'T LET HER GO TODAY... SHE'S STILL HERE... THAT WAS HER I HEARD SCREAM... I KNOW IT...

THOSE OTHER WOMEN... ALL THOSE WHO CAME HERE... THEY ALL DISAPPEARED... YOU DID SOMETHING TO ALL OF THEM...
HA HA HA. HOW CLEVER A WOMAN YOU ARE, FRAU HERTZEL!

HA... HA... HA...! AND HOW RIGHT YOU ARE! NONE OF THOSE WOMEN EVER DID LEAVE HERE! WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHY?

I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM, FRAU HERTZEL! YOU SEE, I HAVE A HOBBY! A VERY SPECIAL HOBBY!

THE SIGN OUTSIDE MY DOOR... IT REFERS TO MY HOBBY, TOO! BUT NOBODY KNOWS IT! COME... I WILL SHOW YOU MY HOBBY!

THIS IS MY SECRET WORKROOM, FRAU HERTZEL... AND THERE IS YOUR FRIEND, FRAU BOEHMLER! IS THAT NOT A FINE JOB? NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND MY HOBBY?

SCREAM ALL YOU LIKE, MEIN FRAU HERTZEL... NOBODY CAN HEAR YOU! AND NOW... BECAUSE YOU KNOW MY SECRET... I MUST DO WITH YOU AS I HAVE DONE WITH ALL THE OTHERS

YOU ARE THE FIRST OF YOUR KIND TO UNDERGO MY TREATMENT, FRAU HERTZEL! ALL THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN FAT LADIES!

ALL THAT NIGHT A TRAIL OF SMOKE EMERGED FROM THE CHIMNEY OF HERR BOSZ ESTABLISHMENT. HERR BOSZ WAS WORKING ON HIS HOBBY.

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING A HORSE-DRAWN WAGON PULLED UP TO THE SIDE DOOR OF THE BOSZ REDUCING SALON. A LARGE CRATE WAS LIFTED INTO THE WAGON...

THE NEXT DAY, THE CRATE WAS OPENED IN A CHINA SHOP IN MUNICH...
IS THAT THE NEW SHIPMENT FROM BOSZ IN DRESDEN, ERIC?
JA, MEIN HERR! LOOK AT THIS ONE! ISN'T IT A BEAUTY?

AND LOOK AT THIS ONE! A THIN ONE! THE FIRST THIN ONE HE'S SENT!
ACH! STRANGE! BUT THIS ONE LOOKS JUST LIKE THE LADY WHO WAS IN HERE LOOKING FOR A THIN FIGURINE A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO!
End

ONCE THERE WERE FOUR SISTERS WHO INHERITED AN EERIE OLD HOUSE DEEP IN THE SWAMP COUNTRY, AND BEFORE THE FIRST NIGHT WAS OVER, SOME FOUND LOVE, SOME FOUND DEATH, AND ONE FOUND THE EVIL SECRETS OF THE OCCULT AND BECAME A...

DEAD WITCH

YES, ONCE THERE WERE FOUR SISTERS AS DIFFERENT AS ANY SISTERS COULD BE! THE YOUNGEST WAS MARY, SWEET, PRETTY, AND SENSIBLE...

NEXT CAME PEARL WITH THE FACE OF A CHINA DOLL, AND THE VAIN HEART OF A SPOILED CHILD...

THE THIRD WAS RUBY, SURE OF HERSELF, AND SURE THAT HER LOVELY BODY WOULD BRING HER WHATEVER SHE DESIRED

AND LAST, BUT FAR FROM LEAST... THERE WAS ELVIRA SILENT AND SHY, WITH STRANGE, DARK AND MYSTERIOUS EYES..

WHEN THE SISTERS ARRIVED TO TAKE OVER THE OLD HOUSE THEY FOUND HANDSOME YOUNG LAWYER JOHN BELL THERE TO HELP THEM, AND AS MARY LOOKED AT JOHN, SHE THOUGHT...
WHAT A KIND, CONSIDERATE PERSON I--I HOPE I HAVE A CHANCE TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH HIM!
...AND SO I THOUGHT I'D STAY THE FIRST NIGHT HERE WITH YOU YOUNG LADIES AND HELP YOU GET SETTLED!

RUBY AND PEARL HAD THOUGHTS TOO..
HOW HANDSOME! WE'RE BOTH SO BEAUTIFUL. WHAT A STARTLING COUPLE WE'D MAKE
WHAT SHOULDERS FOR A MAN! HIS FIGURE IS NEARLY AS MINE IS FOR A WOMAN. WHAT A WONDERFUL COUPLE WE'D MAKE.

BUT ELVIRA'S THOUGHTS WERE THE MOST STARTLING..
THIS IS THE MAN FOR ME. I'VE NEVER HAD A MAN INTERESTED IN ME... MY SISTERS ALWAYS STOLE THEM FROM ME! BUT THIS ONE IS MINE... IF I HAVE TO KILL FOR HIM

BUT AS THE EVENING WORE ON...
LOOK AT THEM FAWNING OVER HIM AND I'M TOO SHY TO SAY HOW MUCH I LOVE HIM! I CAN'T WATCH THIS ANOTHER SECOND!

SO ELVIRA TURNED AND RACED DOWN A DARK PASSAGE, AND LATER
I CAN'T LET THEM TAKE HIM! I'D DO ANYTHING TO STOP THEM, BUT WHAT CAN..

OOH-H!

A HIDDEN ROOM! IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE DEN OF SOME LONG-DEAD WITCH... AND YET I FEEL STRANGELY AT HOME HERE! AND THE GREAT BOOK ON THE TABLE... IT MUST CONTAIN...

And MOMENTS LATER...
I KNEW IT! THE DARKEST OF SECRETS ARE HERE...THE POWERS OF DARKNESS ARE MINE! I CAN DESTROY THEM, BUT I'LL GIVE THEM EACH ONE MORE CHANCE! THEN IF THEY DON'T LEAVE JOHN TO ME...

SO ELVIRA CHOSE TO APPROACH PEARL FIRST..
STAY AWAY FROM JOHN BECAUSE YOU WANT HIM? HA! HA! HE WOULDN'T LOOK AT YOUR UGLY FACE AFTER SEEING MINE! I'M GOING TO MARRY HIM! NOW GET OUT OF MY WAY! I'M GOING TO DRESS FOR DINNER!
I'M WARNING YOU, PEARL.

ALRIGHT, THEN! I MUST DESTROY HER! AND I'LL DO IT IN A WAY TO MATCH HER OWN WORST FAULT... HER VANITY ABOUT HER FACE.

MINUTES LATER, BACK IN THE HIDDEN ROOM...
FIRE, FIRE, TWIST AND TURN, SINGE AND SEAR AND BAKE AND BURN! STEAL HER BEAUTY, CHANGE HER FACE, LEAVE A CINDER IN ITS PLACE!

ABOVE, PEARL SAT ADMIRING HERSELF AS ELVIRA KNEW SHE WOULD BE, AND...
I AM LOVELY AND I'LL MAKE JOHN FALL FOR ME! WHAT'S THAT? SH NING...FLAMING N THE MIRROR...

NO! NO! MY FACE! IT'S BURNING...IT'S... IT'S OLD, OLD! AND IT'S NOT A DREAM... I CAN FEEL IT CHANGING!

I WON'T LIVE LIKE THIS! I'D RATHER DIE...AND I WILL!

EEEEEE!

HEARING THE BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM, JOHN AND THE OTHERS RUSHED IN, BUT...
STAY OUT OF HERE! YOU CAN'T HELP HER NOW... SHE'S DEAD!
AND HOW HORRIBLY DEAD! YET I SEE... HER FACE... SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY WRONG IN THIS HOUSE!

THIS IS A CASE FOR THE POLICE BUT THERE'S NO PHONE AND I WON'T LEAVE THE REST OF YOU ALONE! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL MORNING!
OH, JOHN! YOU SAY SHE KILLED HERSELF! POOR DEAR LITTLE PEARL!

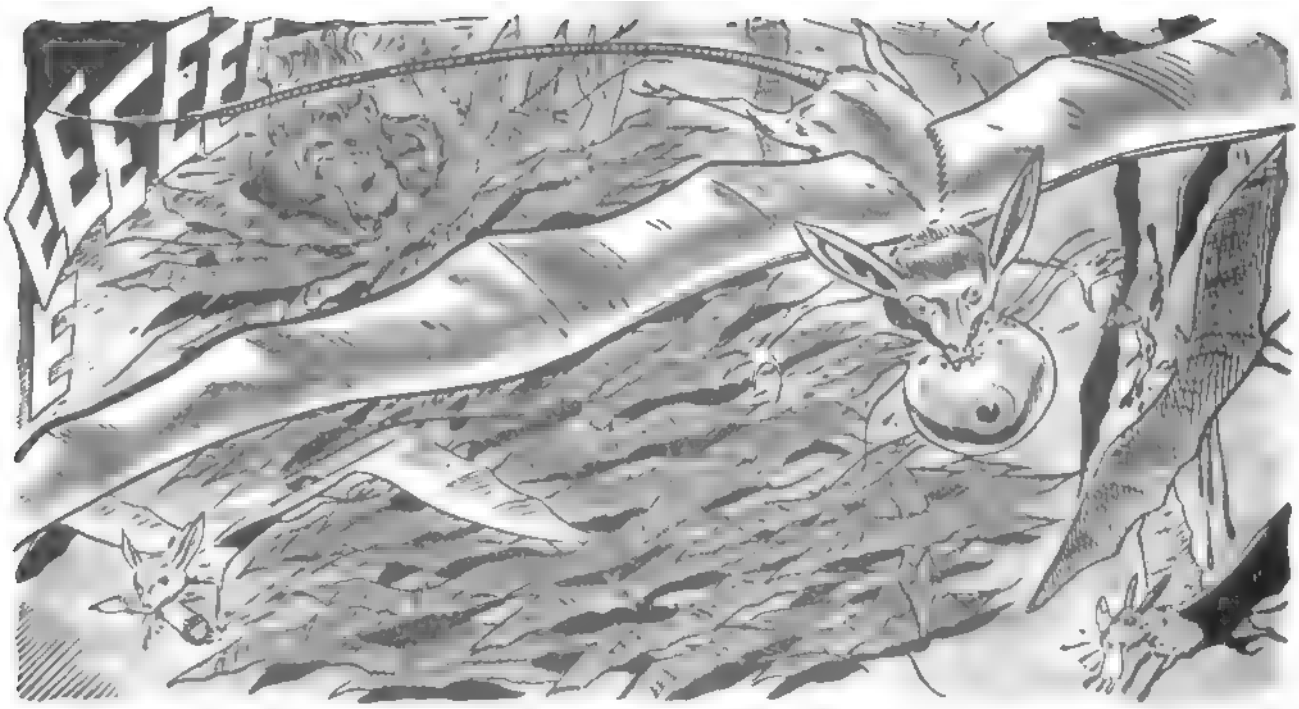
A HALF HOUR LATER, ELVIRA CHOOSES HER SECOND VICTIM...
RUBY, DON'T YOU SEE? PEARL DIED BECAUSE OF JOHN! THE POWERS OF DARKNESS HAVE CHOSEN HIM, AND IT'S DEATH TO ANY WOMAN WHO...
NONSENSE! NEITHER PEARL'S DEATH, NOR YOUR GHOST STORIES WILL SCARE ME AWAY FROM JOHN! DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU STARING AT HIM!

BUT HE'S BEEN DOING A LITTLE STARING OF HIS OWN... AT ME... I'M GOING TO CHANGE INTO THIS DRESS, WATCH HIS EYES POP!
HE'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN... ALIVE! AND AS FOR THAT BODY YOU'RE SO PROUD OF..

POWERS OF EVIL, DO MY WILL... SEND THY CREATURES TO THE KILL! YOU WHO FLY, AND CREEP AND CRAWL... COME YE ONE, AND COME YE ALL!

WAIT TILL JOHN SEES ME IN... GOOD HEAVENS!
BZZZ

GET AWAY FROM ME! HELP! PLEASE... HELP!


EEEEE

And FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...
IT'S TOO AWFUL JOHN. DID YOU SEE HER? SHE WAS EATEN ALIVE
EASY MARY; LISTEN THERE'S SOMETHING HAPPENING HERE I CAN'T COPE WITH. I'M GOING OUT TO THE HIGHWAY AND SEE IF I CAN FLAG SOMEONE TO SEND FOR HELP! I'LL ONLY BE A FEW MINUTES!
A FEW MINUTES WILL BE ENOUGH!

NO USE TALKING TO HER... SHE LOVES HIM AND HE LOVES HER... BUT SHE WON'T HAVE HIM. THE BRAINY ONE... THE SENSIBLE ONE IS SHE? WELL WELL SEE JUST HOW BRAINY SHE CAN BE
HURRY JOHN!

And A FEW MOMENTS LATER AS MARY SAT HUDDLED ALONE IN THE LIVING ROOM.
STRANGE! I SEEM TO BE DEVELOPING A TERRIBLE HEADACHE AND I NEVER HAVE THEM! IT'S WORSE! OH, HOW IT POUNDS!

OHHH! MY HEAD IS BURSTING! I CAN'T STAND IT! IT'S AS IF MY BRAIN WERE GROWING BIGGER AND BIGGER!
MARY! I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING AND CAME RIGHT BACK... MARY... WHAT IS IT?

MY HEAD! IT'S SPLITTING!
MARY, LISTEN! SUDDENLY I REALIZED THAT EVERY TIME ONE OF THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS HAPPENED, ELVIRA WAS MISSING! PERHAPS SHE... MARY! YOU MUST THINK! WHERE IS SHE NOW?

I THINK...SHE WENT DOWN THE PASSAGE...

COME ON! WE HAVE TO FIND HER BEFORE YOU...

JOHN AND MARY RACED INTO THE DARK PASSAGEWAY! SUDDENLY JOHN STOPPED...
WAIT! I HEAR HER VOICE! SHE'S IN BACK OF THIS... IT MUST BE A SECRET PANEL!

NO TIME TO FIND OUT HOW IT WORKS... I'LL HAVE TO BREAK IT IN!
OOHHH... PLEASE HURRY!

And WITH A CRASH...!
ELVIRA! STOP WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO MARY, OR I'LL...
SO, YOU FOUND ME! BUT IT ONLY MEANS SHE WILL DIE SOONER! KILL HER, ALL POWERFUL FLAME!

THE FLAME! IT'S COMING RIGHT AT ME!
NO, LOOK! IT'S TURNING BACK TOWARD ELVIRA!
KILL THE EVIL ONE... THE MOST EVIL WOMAN THOU HAST EVER SEEN! KILL... NO! WAIT!

NOT ME! NO... NOT AAGGHH!
OHHH! HOW HORRIBLE!

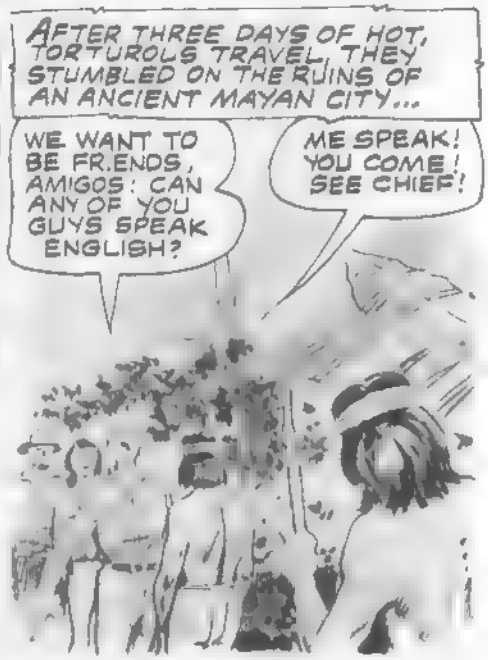
SHE SAID, "KILL THE EVIL ONE", AND IT DID!
AND THE MOMENT SHE DIED, MY PAIN WAS GONE! I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND, JOHN!

WE'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND, MARY! LET'S JUST LEAVE THIS PLACE, BOTH OF US... AND NEVER COME BACK!
YES, JOHN, WE'LL LEAVE TOGETHER... AND WE'LL BE TOGETHER, FROM NOW ON!
the END

THE BATS

JOHNNY PIERCE, OWNER AND OPERATOR OF A PASSENGER-PLANE SERVICE IN SANTA ROSA, WENT SUDDENLY OUT OF BUSINESS WHEN HE CRASH-LANDED IN A LAKE WITH HIS PASSENGERS; LITTLE DID THEY KNOW WHAT THE TREK TO SAFETY WILL ENTAIL...

FORTUNATELY FOR ELIZABETH BROWN AND COUNT VACRINI, THEIR PILOT WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE REGION AND PROVIDED EDIBLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, AND EVEN CHINCHONA BARK TO PREVENT MALARIA!



SOON...
AMMO LOA GOOLA MUM!
CHIEF SAY YOU STAY... REST! WHEN SUN COME UP, ME TAKE YOU TO WHITE-MAN VILLAGE!
THANKS!

WHAT LUCK! NOT ONLY ARE WE CARED FOR, WE'LL ALSO HAVE AN INDIAN GUIDE TO TAKE US BACK TO CIVILIZATION!
BAH! MOST LIKELY THAT HEATHEN WITCH-DOCTOR CHIEF IS MERELY FATTENING US FOR THE KILL!

LATER, IN THE SLEEPING QUARTERS...
THIS IS A WEIRD PLACE!
GO TO SLEEP, ELIZABETH. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF NOW!

SUDDENLY...
GREAT GUNS! A BAT'S AT HER THROAT!

WHA..?
DON'T BE ALARMED! IT'S ONLY A VAMPIRE BAT... I'VE GOT IT OFF YOU NOW!

IT WOULD REQUIRE A SIMULTANEOUS ATTACK BY A GREAT NUMBER OF THOSE BATS TO KILL ANYONE!
TALKING ABOUT VAMPIRES, THERE'S A LEGEND THAT SOME OF MY ANCESTORS TURNED INTO VAMPIRES!

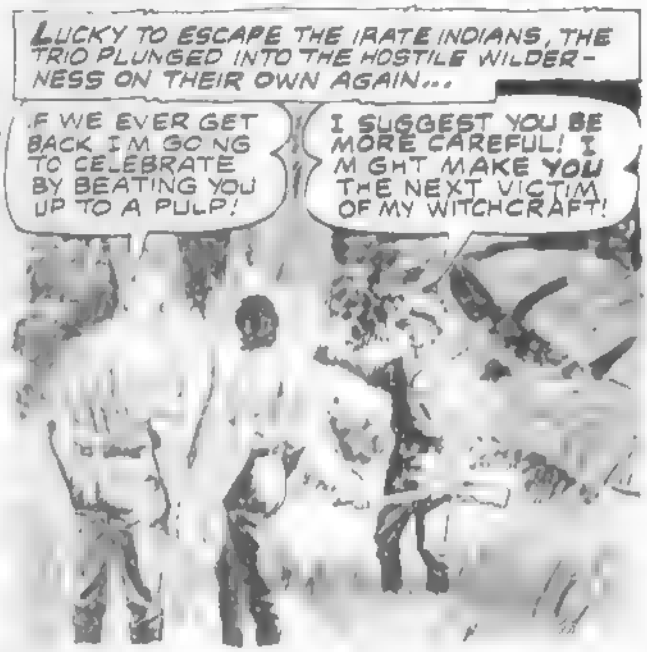
I DON'T BELIEVE IT OF COURSE! BUT WHEN ONE LEARNS HOW EFFECTIVE BLACK MAGIC CAN BE...
SHUT UP! CAN'T YOU SEE HOW FRIGHTENED THE GIRL IS?

HA! LOOK! I'VE CARVED AN EFFIGY! I AM IN POSSESSION OF STRANDS OF HAIR FROM THE WITCH-DOCTOR CHIEF! NOW WATCH...

THE HAIRS ARE ATTACHED! THE WOUND IS INFLICTED! COBBA-COBBA-ZENGA-MENGA! IT IS DONE! IN THE MORNING HIS LEFT LEG WILL BE LAME!

THIS WILL SHUT YOU UP AND PUT YOU TO SLEEP!

THE NEXT MORNING...
ALLO BELLO LOA MONGO WALLA DOA LULAWANGO!
CHIEF SAY YOU MAKE HEX ON HE! CHIEF SAY HE MAKE MAGIC FIND OUT WHO! YOU GO AWAY! HE WHO MAKE HEX DIE!
HA! YOU WON'T SCOFF AT BLACK MAGIC AGAIN, PIERCE!


LUCKY TO ESCAPE THE IRATE INDIANS, THE TRIO PLUNGED INTO THE HOSTILE WILDERNESS ON THEIR OWN AGAIN...
IF WE EVER GET BACK I'M GOING TO CELEBRATE BY BEATING YOU UP TO A PULP!
I SUGGEST YOU BE MORE CAREFUL! I MIGHT MAKE YOU THE NEXT VICTIM OF MY WITCHCRAFT!

NIGHT FELL, AND AS THE THREE SLEPT, A HORRIBLE THING CAME ON THE CAMP SITE...

ELIZABETH SENSED THE HORROR IN HER SLEEP AND AWOKE!
OH! JOHNNY! HELP!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT THE INDIAN VILLAGE...

FRESH WARM BLOOD!
EEEE!!!
AWOMBA! YAGH-H!

THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNIN FOR NIGHT AFTER NIGHT THE VAMPIRE LEFT A BLOODLESS CORPSE...
WE DID AS YOU ORDERED, O CHIEF, AND DUG UP THE GRAVE OF THE WHITE MAN WE KILLED, BUT THE BODY WAS GONE! IT DID NOT WALK AWAY! IT MUST HAVE RISEN FROM THE EARTH LIKE A BIRD *
*TRANSLATED FROM NATIVE DIALECT...

...OR A BAT! THE WHITE WITCH-DOCTOR HAS TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE TO WREAK VENGEANCE UPON US! I AM HELPLESS AGAINST SUCH GREAT MAGIC *

GO! BRING BACK THE WHITE MAN AND GIRL IF THEY ARE STILL ALIVE! IF THEY CANNOT HELP US, WE ARE DOOMED *

THEY FOUND JOHNNY AND ELIZABETH IN A MATTER OF HOURS, BUT THEY WERE MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE...
WE HAVE SOME STRANGE DISEASE SAPPING AWAY OUR STRENGTH... C-CAN'T GO ON...
YOU WEAR POISON PLANT! TAKE PLANT OFF!

LATER, THAT AFTERNOON...
CHIEF SAY HE MAKE YOU WELL! NOW YOU TELL HE HOW TO KILL MAN-BAT!
TO DESTROY A VAMPIRE YOU'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHERE IT LIVES!

AMA MELO UMBA WAHA LOA LOBO!
CHIEF SAY LITTLE VAMPIRES LIVE IN CAVE, BUT NOT KNOW WHERE BIG VAMPIRE LIVE!
MAYBE IN THE SAME CAVE! LET'S GO SEE!

THE CHIEF ACCEPTED THE SUGGESTION, AND THEY WENT TO THE CAVE OF THE VAMPIRE BATS...
CHIEF SAY CAVE VERY BIG...LONG!
IF HE'S IN HERE, HE'S PROBABLY NOT VERY FAR FROM THE ENTRANCE!

SUDDENLY...
GREAT GUNS! THERE HE IS!
E!!!!! LOMBO!

MANALA LOMBO! MUM OOLA UNA LOA LOMBO?
CHIEF SAY WHAT DO NOW? ME KNOW WHAT DO... RUN!
E!!!!!!

AMANO MUDUOA!
CHIEF SAY NO RUN! MUST KILL VAMPIRE! CHIEF SAY WHITE MAN TELL HOW KILL VAMPIRE!
HMM...THE VAMPIRE'S BELLY WAS BLOATED... AND IF IT WAS, WITH BLOOD, MAYBE THAT'S HOW HE CAN BE DESTROYED!

JOHNNY INSTRUCTED THE INDIANS TO BLOCK THE CAVE...
IT WILL BE DARK SOON! HURRY HURRY!
AMALA! AMALA!

THEN...THE BATS FLURRY AWAKE...TO HUNT THROUGH THE NIGHT...FOR BLOOD!
AH-H! I'M GLAD THAT VAMPIRES DID RUN IN MY FAMILY!

WHA...? THEY'VE SEALED THE ENTRANCE...BUT I'LL OPEN IT! I HAVE THE POWER AND STRENGTH OF EVIL IN MY BODY!

TELL THEM THEY'VE GOT TO HOLD! IF HE GETS OUT WE'RE LOST!
LOA WEEL! LOA WEEL!
AS THE VAMPIRE TRIED TO BREACH THE STONES SEALING THE ENTRANCE, HIS SKIN WAS RIPPED AND A SMALL FLOW OF BLOOD BEGAN TO TRICKLE OUT...
FOOLS! DO THEY THINK THEY CAN KEEP ME FROM MY VICTIMS?
...AND AS THE VICIOUS LITTLE BATS SCENTED THE FLOWING BLOOD...
SCREEEEEEEE!
...AND BEFORE THE VAMPIRE COULD DISLODGE THE BARRIER, HE FOUND HIMSELF SUDDENLY ATTACKED BY THE HUNGRY BATS!
ARGHH! GET OFF YOU LITTLE FIENDS! OOHHH!
HORRIFYING SCREAMS RENT THE AIR... AND THEN...SILENCE...
WHAT HAPPEN INSIDE CAVE?
EXACTLY WHAT I FIGURED! ALL THOSE HUNGRY BATS TURNED ON THE NEAREST SOURCE OF BLOOD--THE VAMPIRE!
A LITTLE LATER...
THIS SOLVES THE VAMPIRE PROBLEM! TELL YOUR CHIEF TO HAVE THIS THING DISECTED INTO MANY PIECES AND BURY EACH PIECE IN A DIFFERENT SPOT!
ME TELL! WHITE MAN SAVE TRIBE!
THE GRATEFUL INDIANS ESCORTED JOHNNY AND ELIZABETH BACK TO SANTA ROSA WHERE THEY GOT MARRIED!
I'M A LUCKY GUY! NOT ONLY DO I HAVE AN AIRLINE AGAIN, BUT A BEAUTIFUL HOSTESS TO GO WITH IT!
THE END